

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RMAXIM/ATP

APPROVED BY IO - D.R. TOUSSAINT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 226733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, BG, IN

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH APPROACH TO DEPARTMENT ON FARRAKA
BARRAGE ISSUE ON 31ST UNGA AGENDA

REFERENCES: (A) USUN 3567 (B) NEW DELHI 13374

1. BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR SIDDIQUI CALLED ON IO DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY TOUSSAINT SEPTEMBER 10 IN FOLLOW UP TO
BDG PERMREP'S APPROACH TO USUN (REFTEL A) REQUESTING US
SUPPORT OF BDG'S INSCRIPTION OF COMPLAINT ITEM RE FARRAKA
BARRAGE ON UNGA AGENDA.

2. SIDDIQUI INDICATED BDG RESORT TO UN FORUM RESULTED
FROM FRUSTRATION WITH FRUITLESS BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE INDIANS. ACCORDING TO SIDDIQUI, INDIANS HAD NOT
ADVANCED ANY NEW PROPOSALS AT THE CURRENT TALKS, IN WHICH
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THE CENTRAL ISSUES OF DISAGREEMENT CONTINUE TO BE: A) MOST

EQUITABLE FORMULA FOR SHARING THE GANGES WATER; AND B) BEST METHODS, AS WELL AS LOCATION OF POSSIBLE FUTURE DAMS, FOR WATER STOCKAGE AND REPLENISHMENT OF WATER DIVERTED FROM THE GANGES.

3. SIDDIQUI SAID BDG WOULD WITHDRAW FARRAKA ITEM IF BILATERAL TALKS RESULT IN AGREEMENT AND INDICATED INTENSITY

OF BANGLADESHI EFFORTS AT THE UN ON THE FARRAKA ISSUE WILL DEPEND DIRECTLY ON PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN BILATERAL TALKS WITH INDIANS. HE SAID BDG ASSUMES ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED IN FIRST COMMITTEE BUT DID NOT DEFINE, IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUESTIONS, WHAT THE BDG HOPED TO ACHIEVE AT THE UN OR TYPE OF SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTION BDG HAS IN MIND.

5. TOUSSAINT REPLIED THAT US, IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR TRADITIONAL POLICY ON THE RIGHTS OF MEMBER STATES TO ADDRESS ISSUES THEY DEEM IMPORTANT AT THE UN, WOULD SUPPORT INSCRIPTION OF THE FARRAKA ITEM. THIS, HOWEVER, HAD NO IMPLICATIONS FOR THE US POSITION ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE. HE STRESSED US HOPE THAT BILATERAL TALKS WOULD LEAD TO A SATISFACTORY RESOLUTION OF THE FARRAKA PROBLEM.

6. FOR NEW DELHI: AS CONVEYED TO JAIN BY EMBASSY (REFTEL B), GENERAL US POLICY HAS BEEN TO SUPPORT RIGHT TO INSCRIBE ITEMS ON UNGA AGENDA; THIS, OF COURSE, IS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR FINAL POSITION ON SUBSTANCE.

ROBINSON

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